

Fantastic Four

DISASSEMBLED

MARVEL

518

WAID
WIERINGO
KESEL

RICO!
KESEL
'04
MOUNTS



THE FANTASTIC FOUR

4

A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

3

The FF has made a number of public missteps lately, greatly eroding public confidence in New York's First Family. Between their fall from grace and the recent casualties resulting from the destruction of Avengers Mansion, New Yorkers don't know where to turn...

2

...when a quartet of miles-tall alien obelisks strike the rivers around Manhattan, their gargantuan impact deluging portions of the city in stories-high tidal waves...

1

...for a start.



STAN LEE PRESENTS

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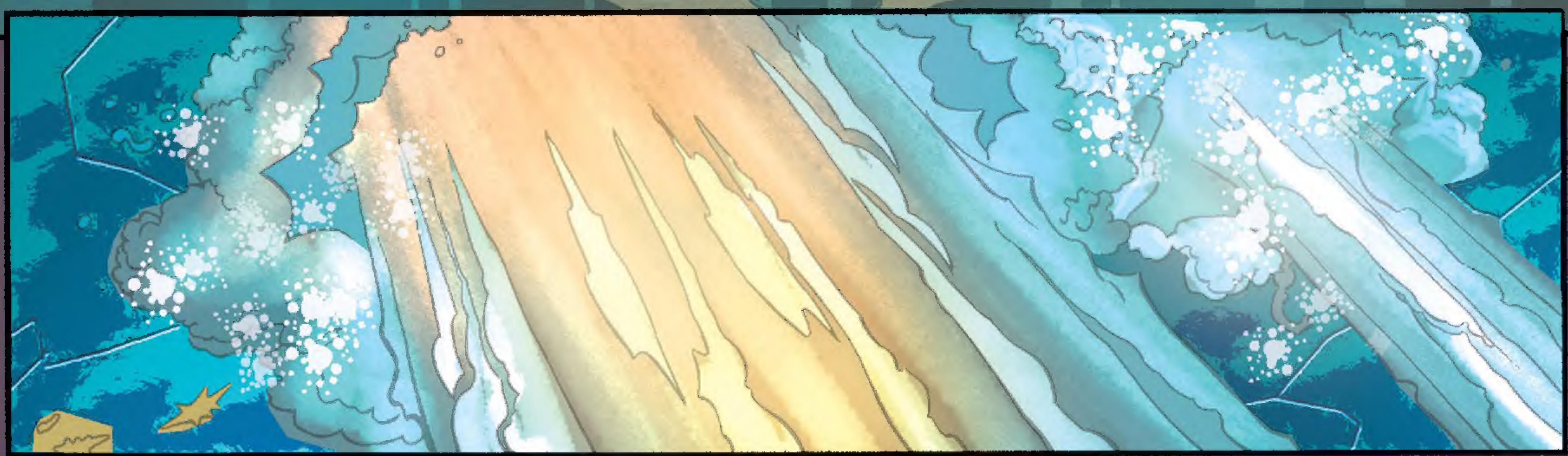
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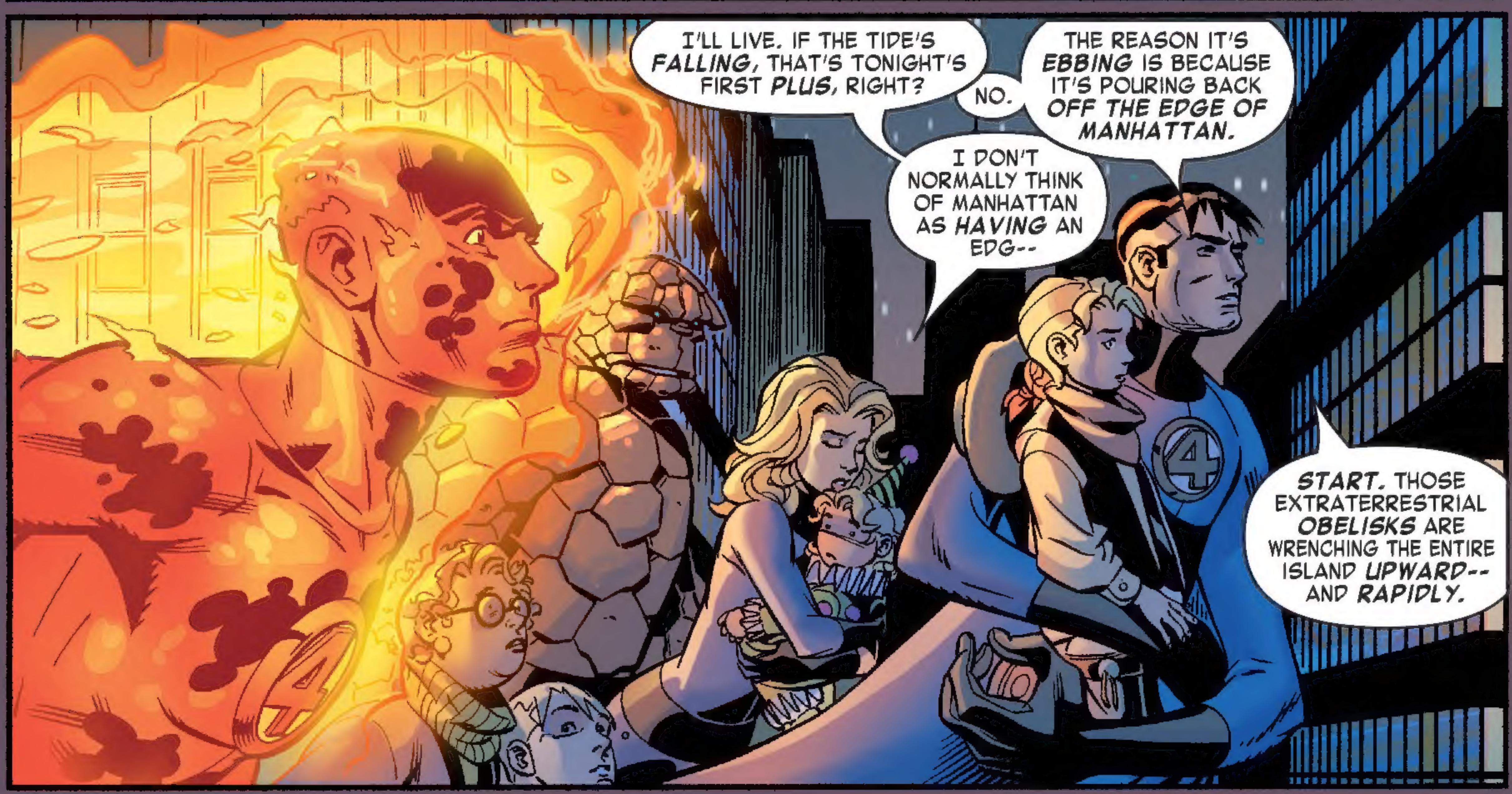
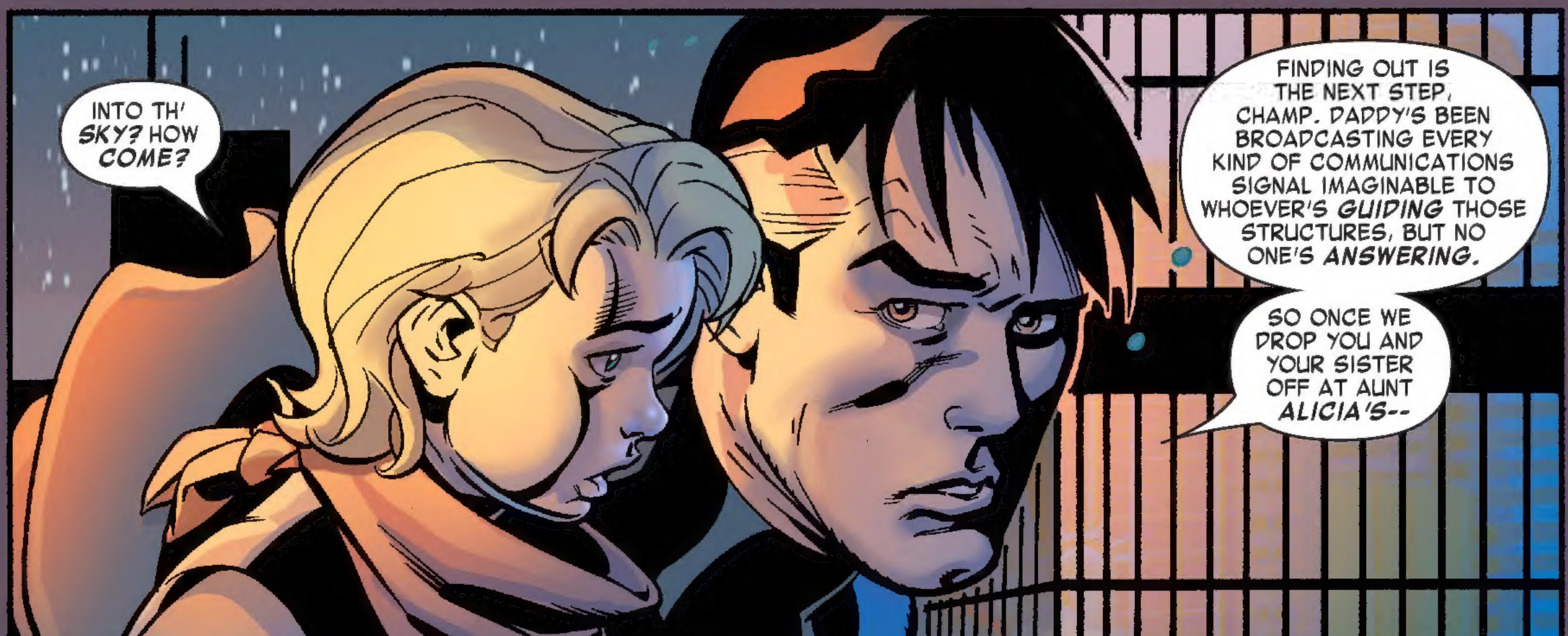
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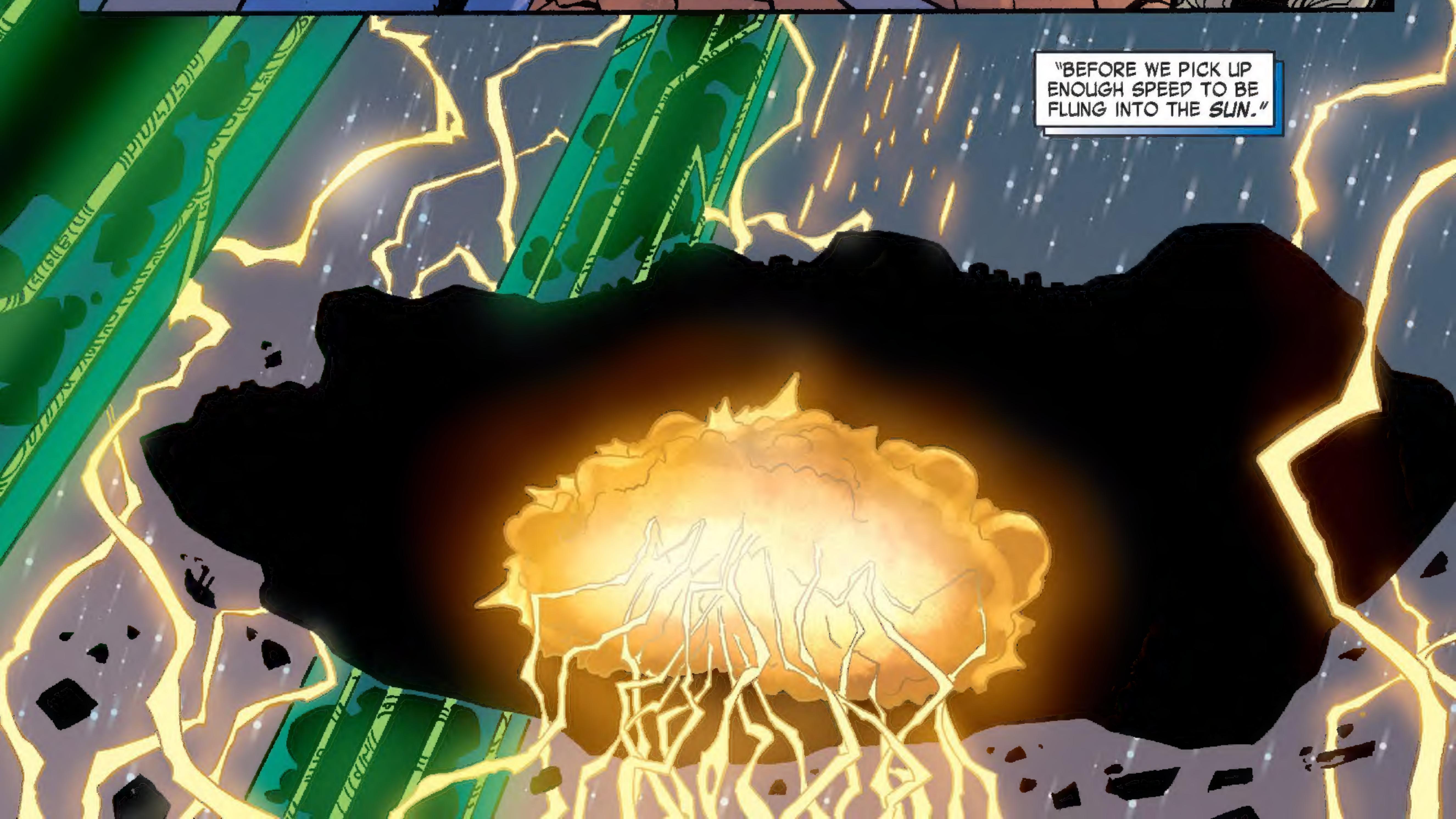
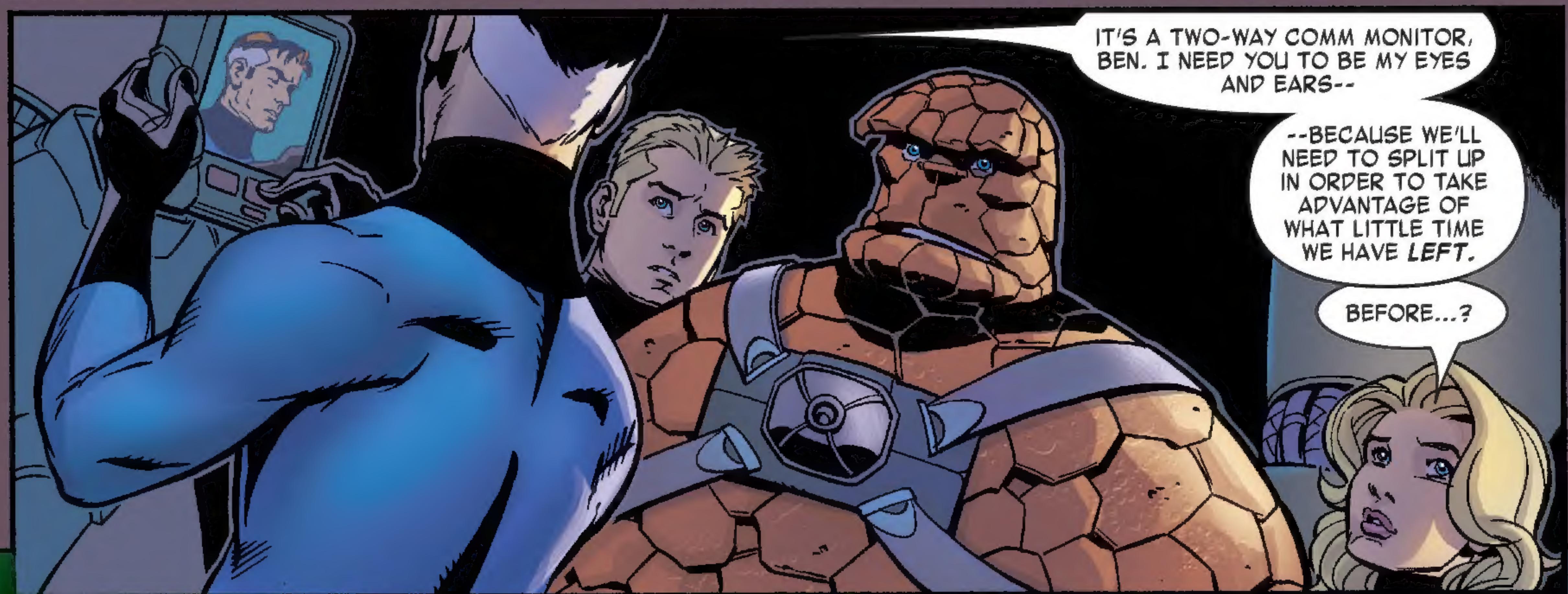
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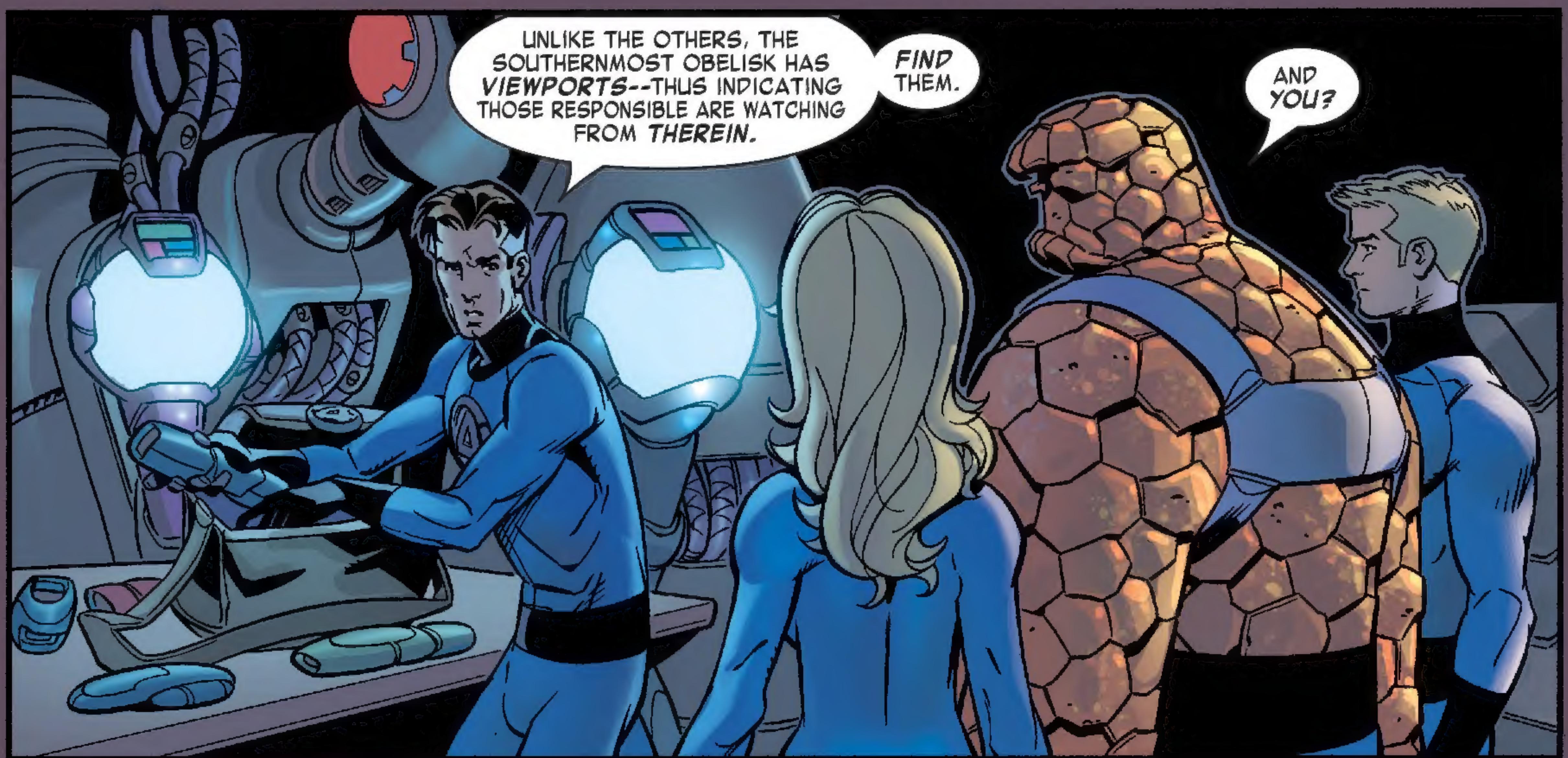


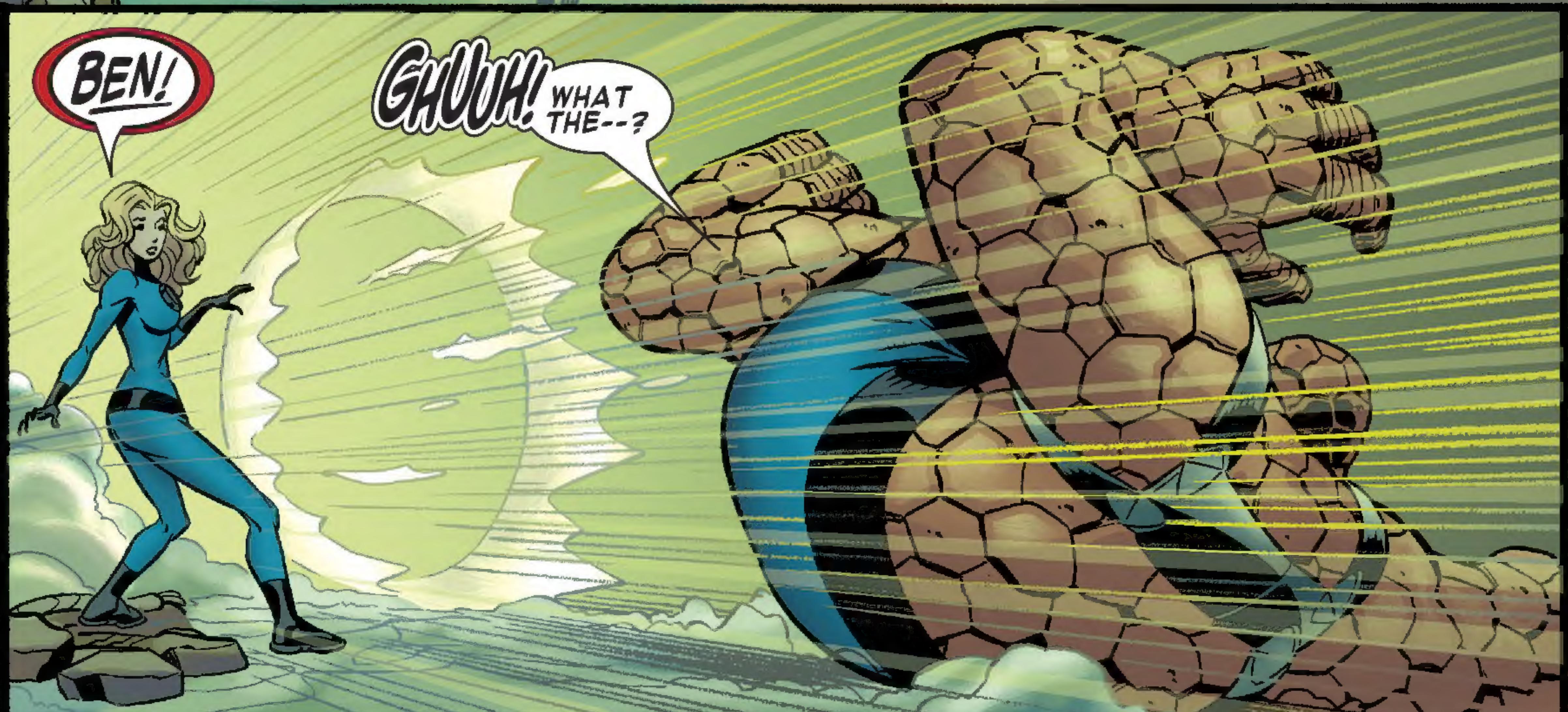
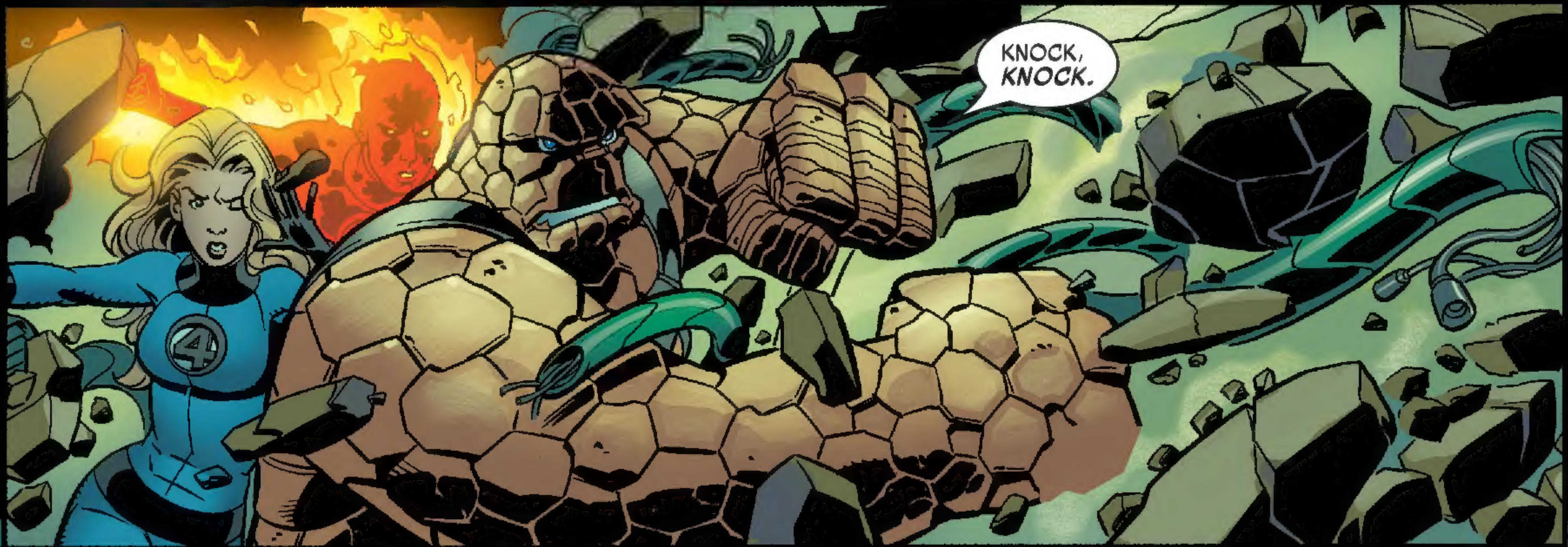
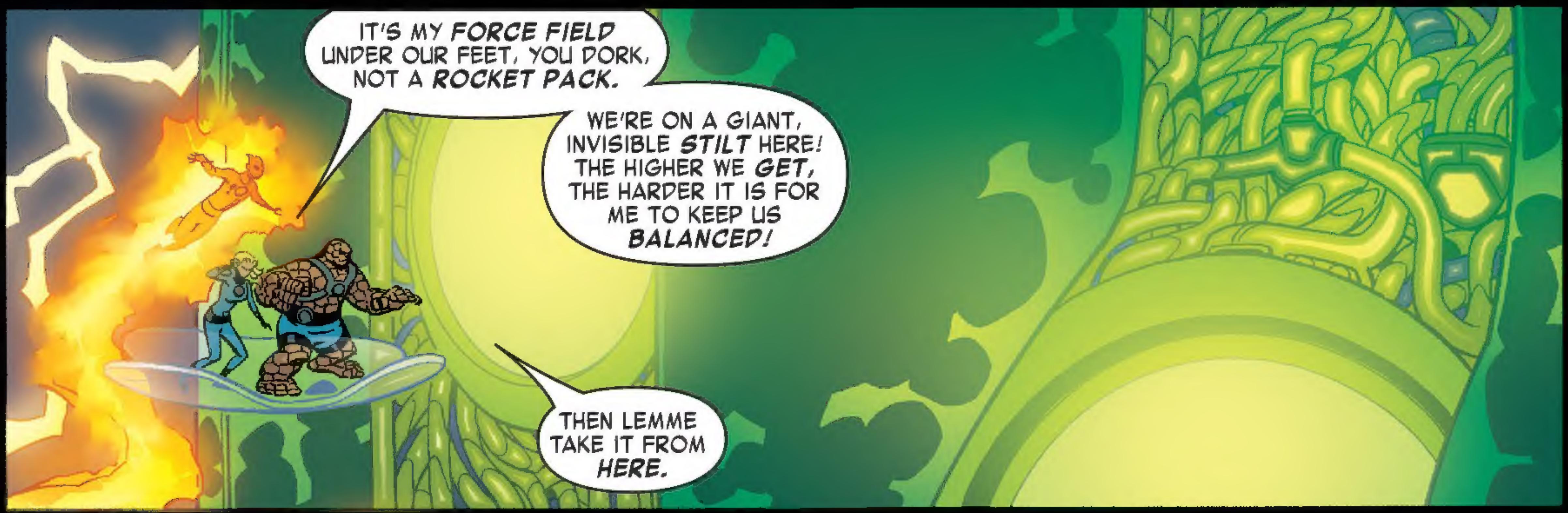
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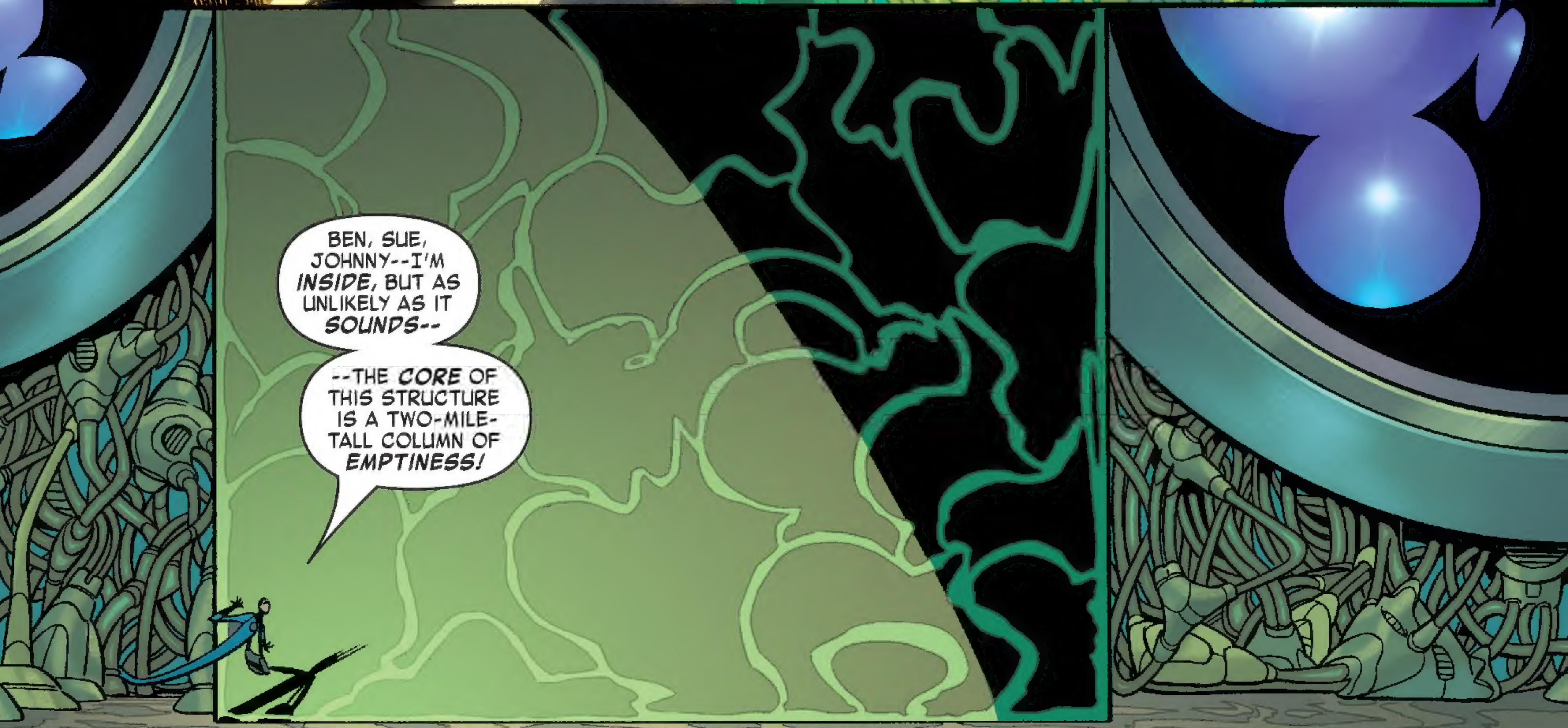
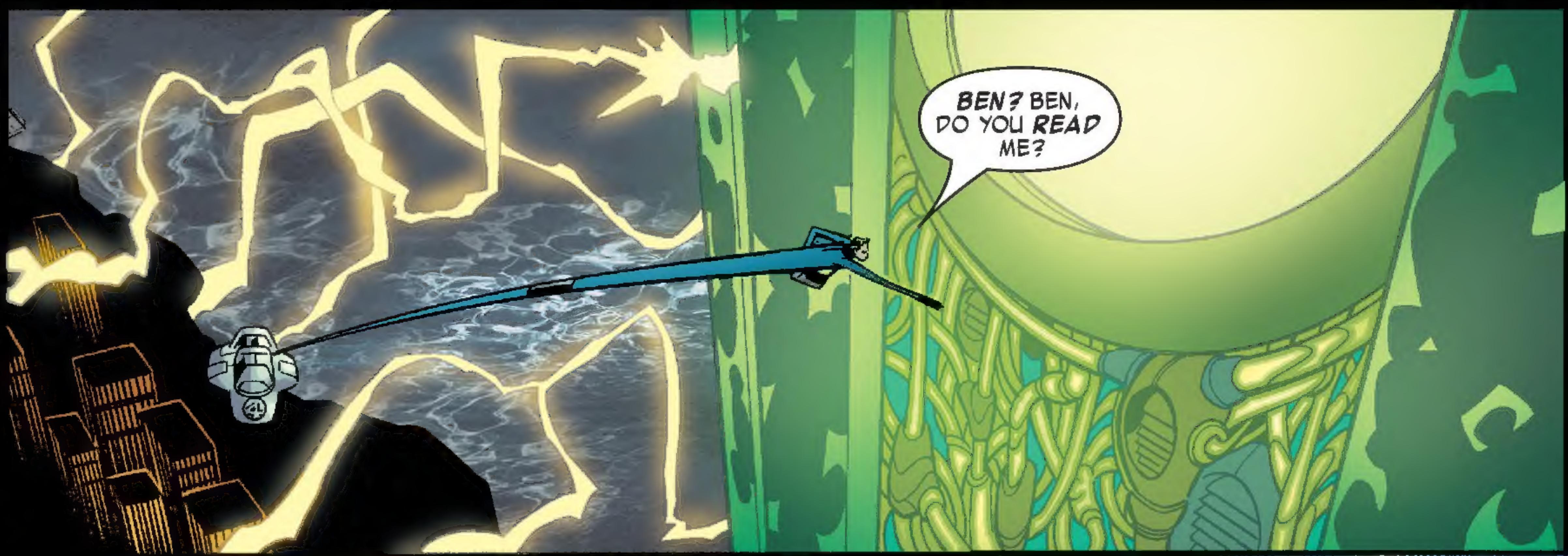
TWO BLOCKS LATER...

WHEW! THE
FLOODWATER'S
LOWERING EL
PRONTO!"EL"
WHAT?IGNORE 'IM.
HE'S BEEN TAKIN'
CLASSES SO HE
C'N BE A MORON IN
TWO LANGUAGES.SUZIE, YOU
AWRIGHT?I'LL LIVE. IF THE TIDE'S
FALLING, THAT'S TONIGHT'S
FIRST PLUS, RIGHT?NO.
THE REASON IT'S
EBBING IS BECAUSE
IT'S POURING BACK
OFF THE EDGE OF
MANHATTAN.I DON'T
NORMALLY THINK
OF MANHATTAN
AS HAVING AN
EDG--START. THOSE
EXTRATERRESTRIAL
OBELISKS ARE
WRENCHING THE ENTIRE
ISLAND UPWARD--
AND RAPIDLY.INTO TH'
SKY? HOW
COME?FINDING OUT IS
THE NEXT STEP,
CHAMP. DADDY'S BEEN
BROADCASTING EVERY
KIND OF COMMUNICATIONS
SIGNAL IMAGINABLE TO
WHOEVER'S GUIDING THOSE
STRUCTURES, BUT NO
ONE'S ANSWERING.SO ONCE WE
DROP YOU AND
YOUR SISTER
OFF AT AUNT
ALICIA'S--



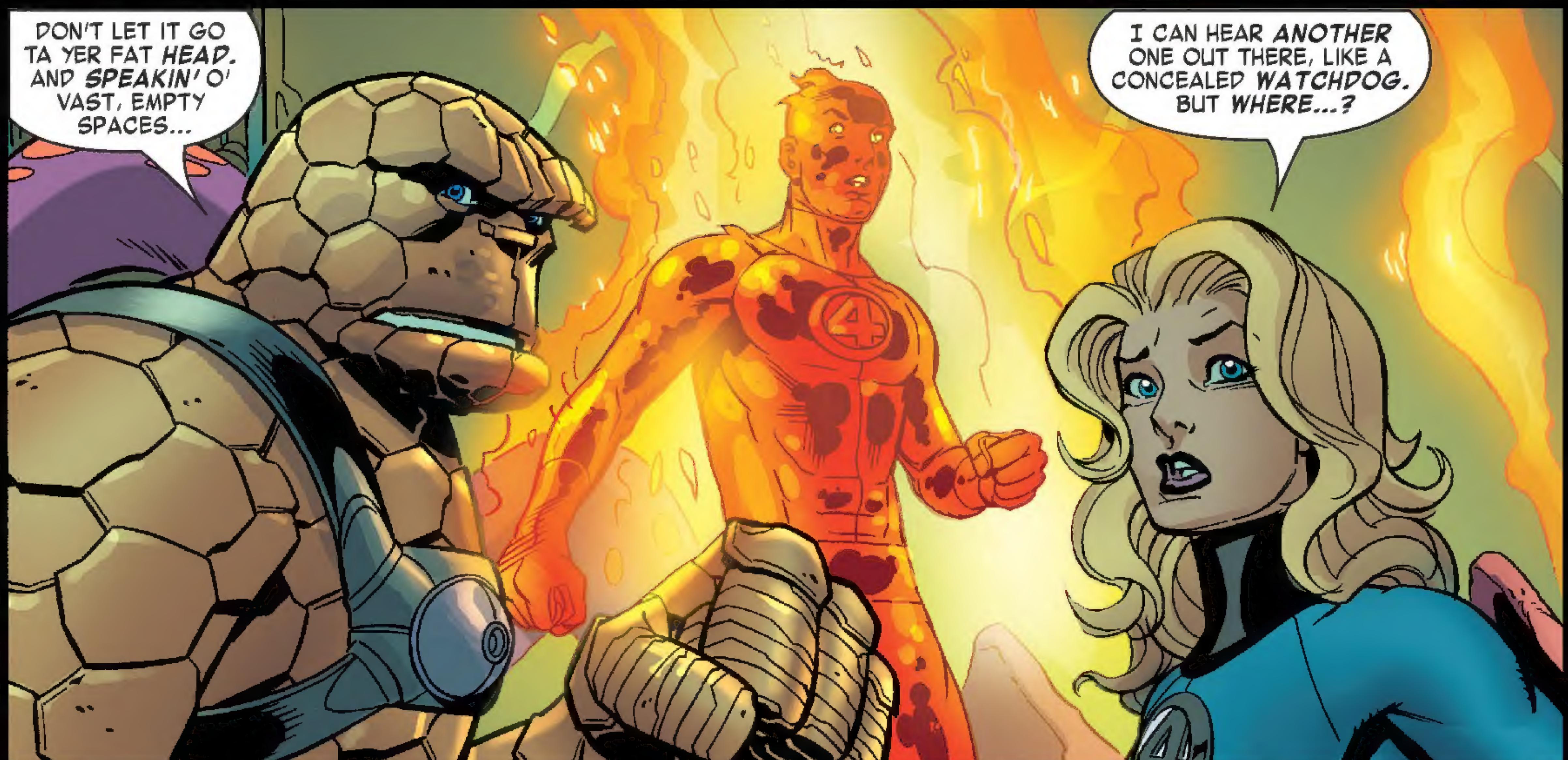
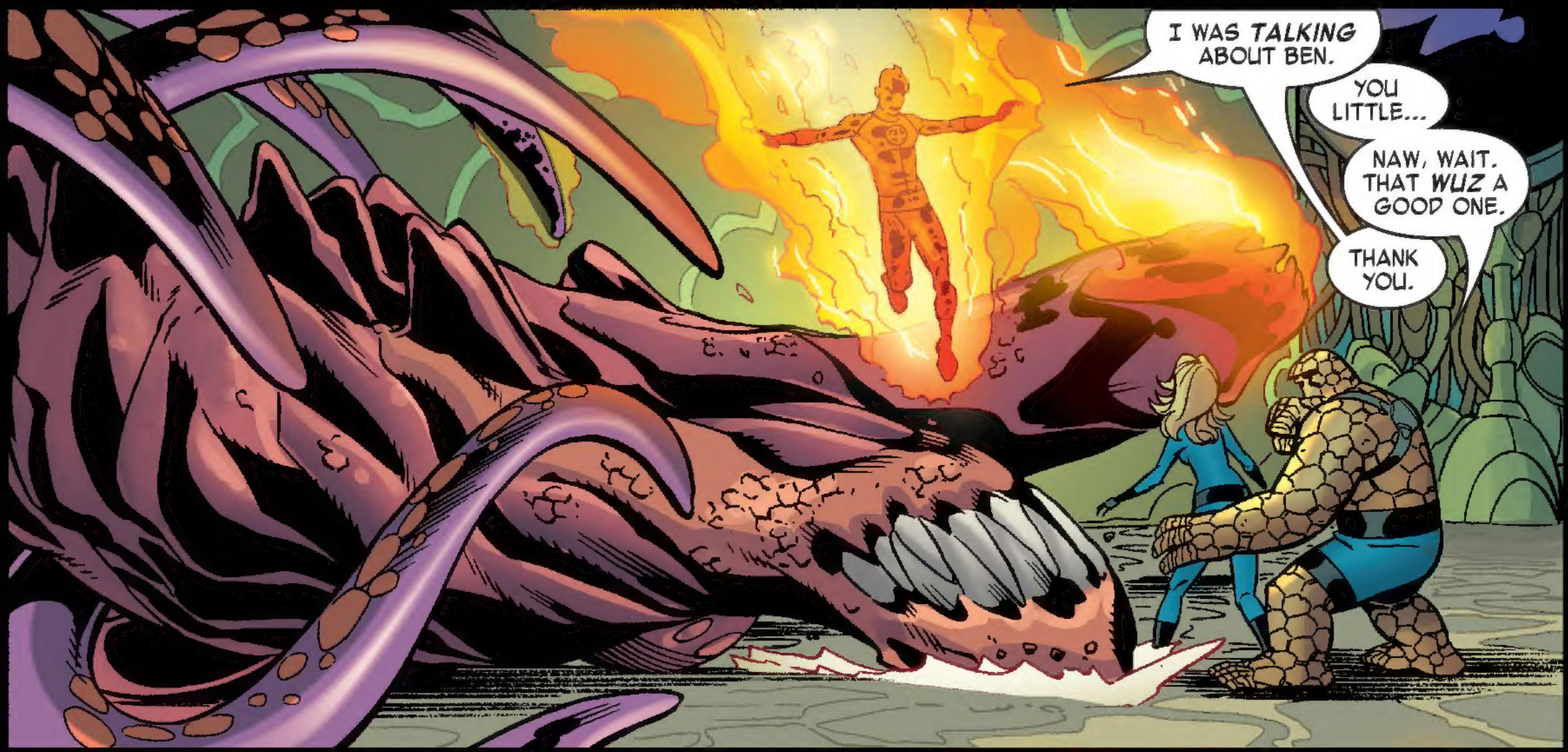








NOT RIGHT
NOW...









OH, WE'RE MAKIN' CONTACT,
AWRIGHT--WITH SOMETHIN'
SOME LUNATIC LET LOOSE A
WHOLE ZOO FULLA CRITTERS
ON OUR--

3802
3802
3802

HUH?
3802
3802
3802

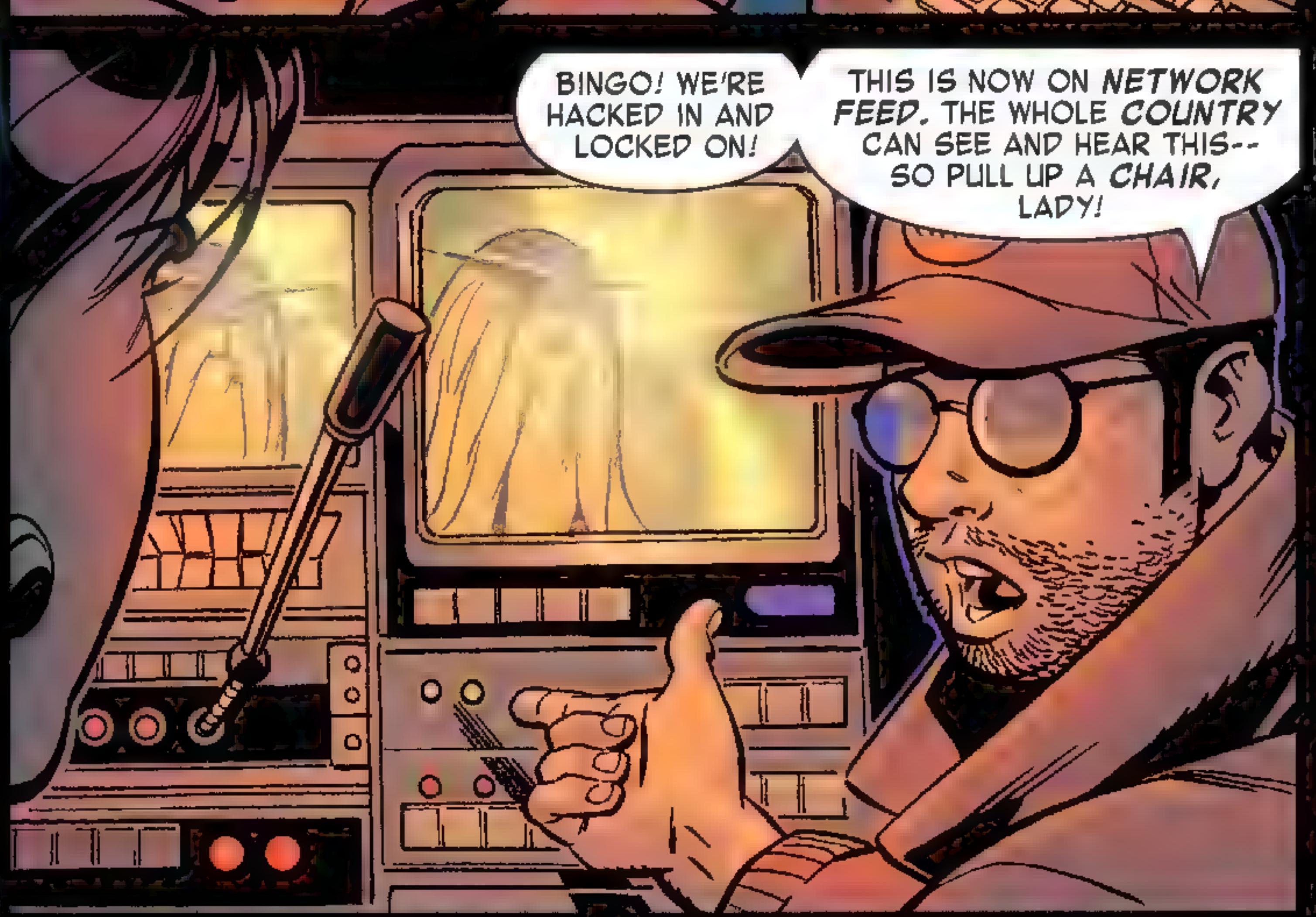
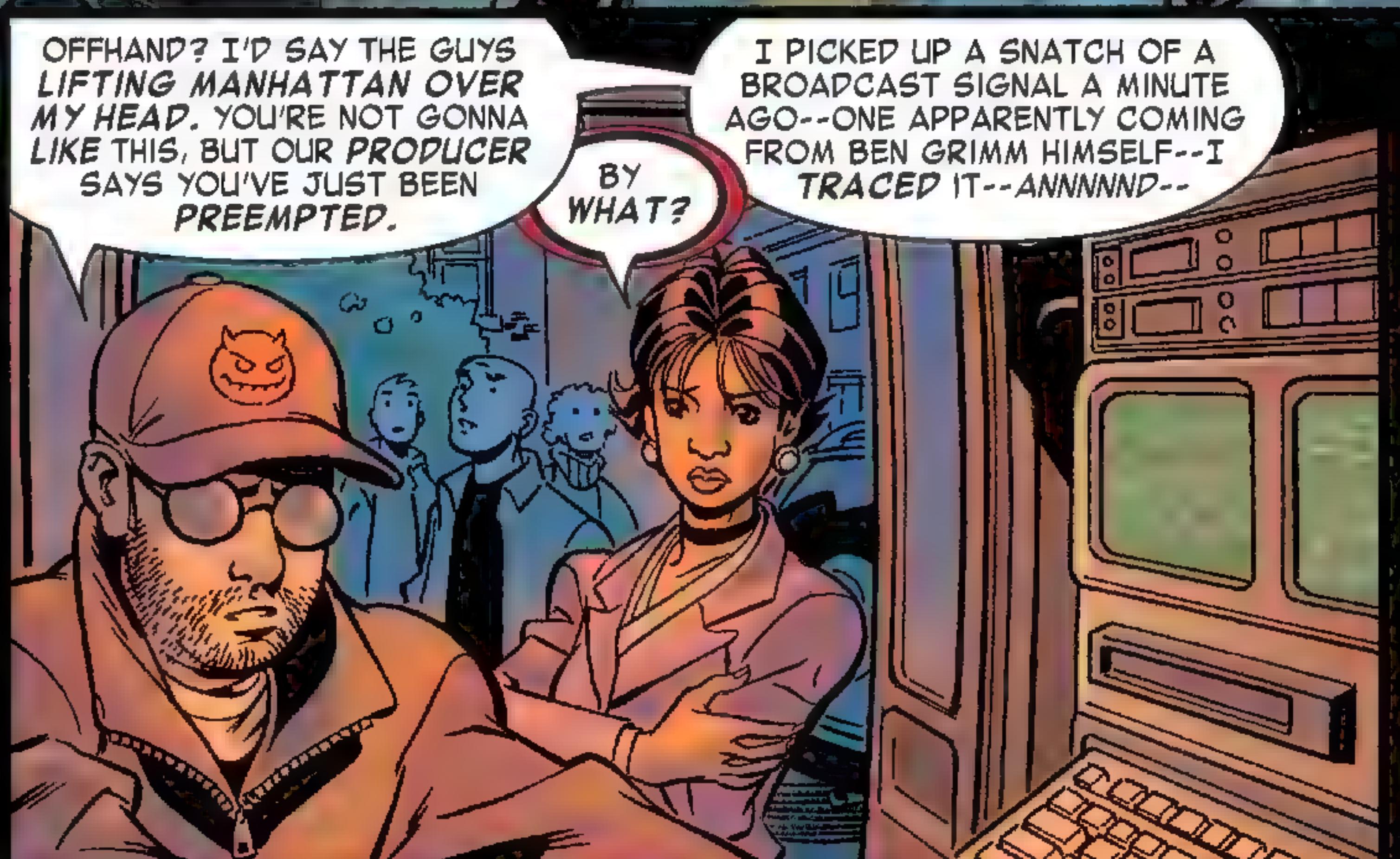
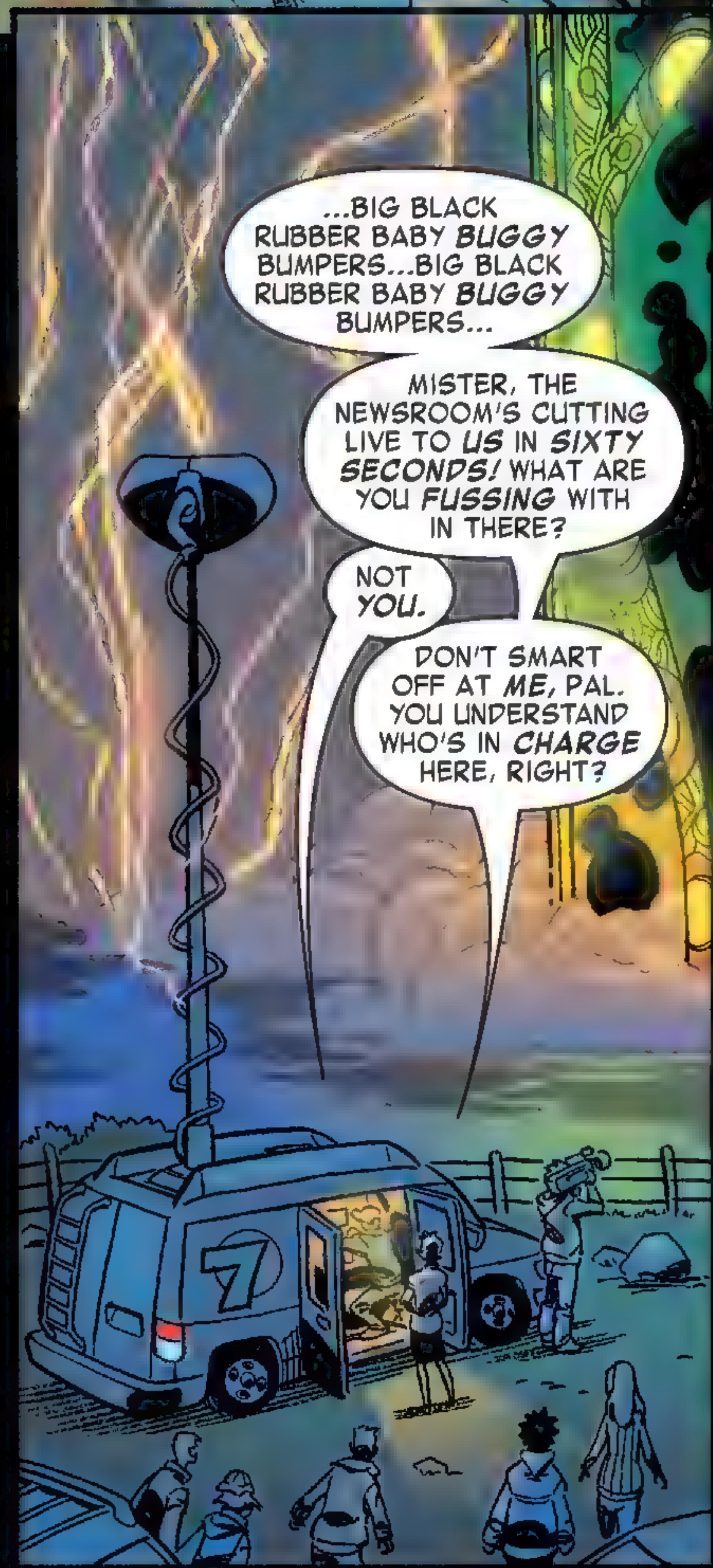
BEN, I HARDLY
RECOGNIZE THE
LANGUAGE--BUT IT
IS A LANGUAGE.
THOSE SOUND LIKE
ORDERS TO STAND
DOWN!

THESE
AREN'T WATCHDOGS--
THEY'RE INTELLIGENT
CREATURES!

HEY! HEY! THEN COOL YER JETS, YA BIG
LUMMOX! WE COME IN PEACE! WE
JUST WANNA--

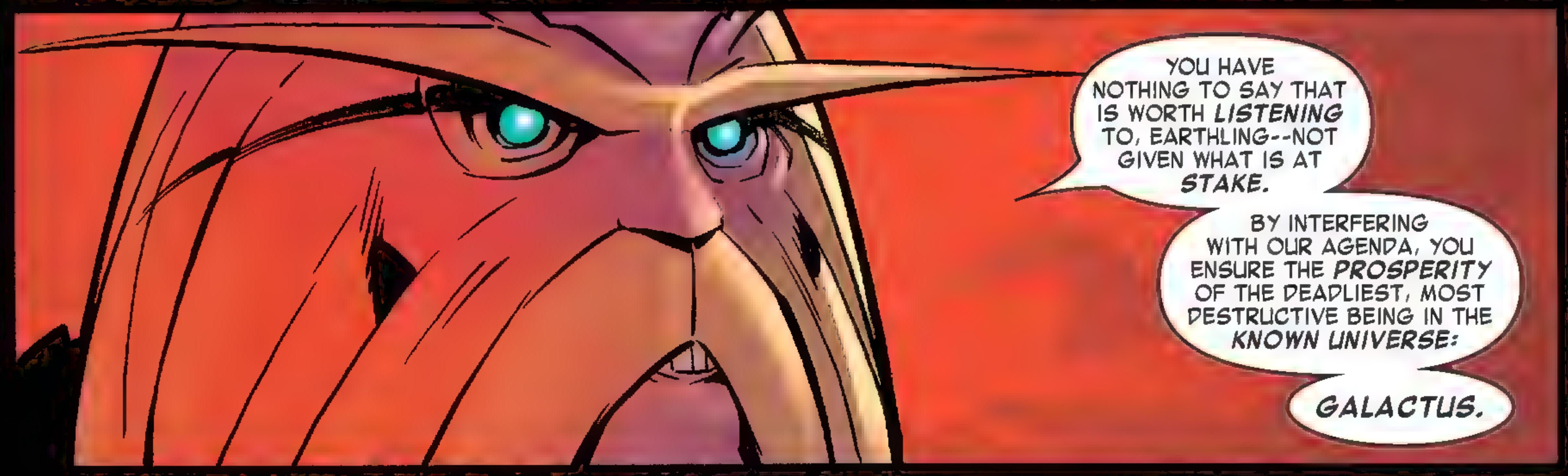
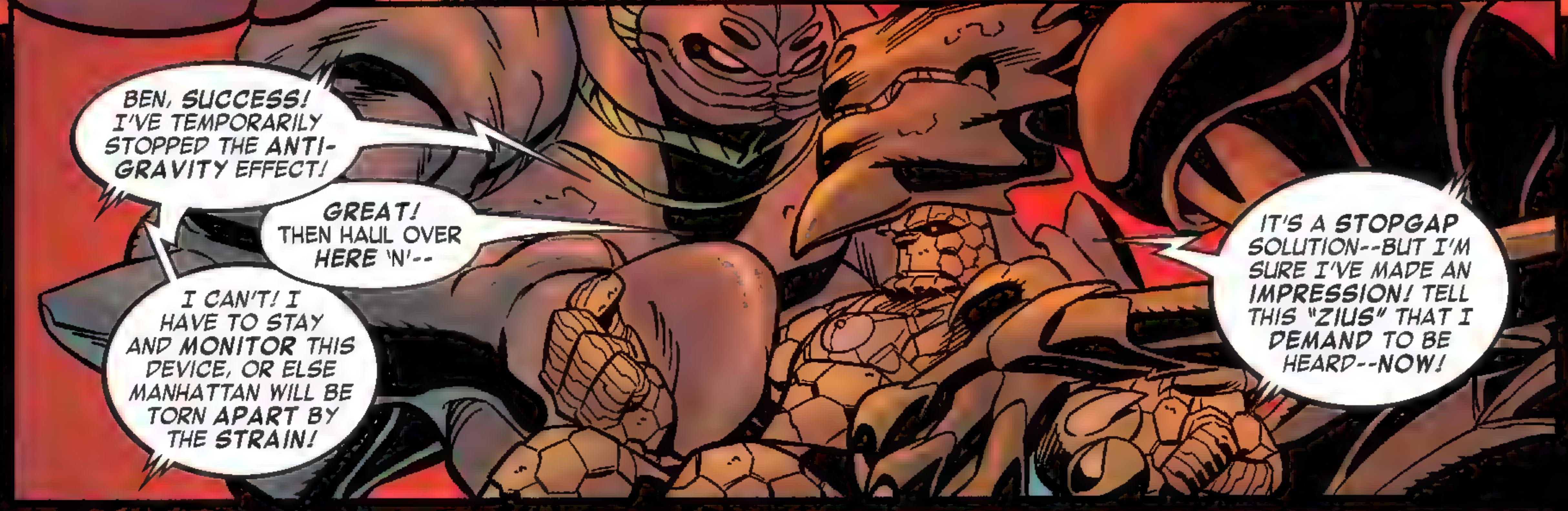
SUZIE, WE CAN'T
HIDE NOW! THERE AIN'T
NO POINT IN TURNIN' ME
INVISIBLE! THEY AWREADY
GOT ME!

BEN--
--I'M NOT
DOING THIS!

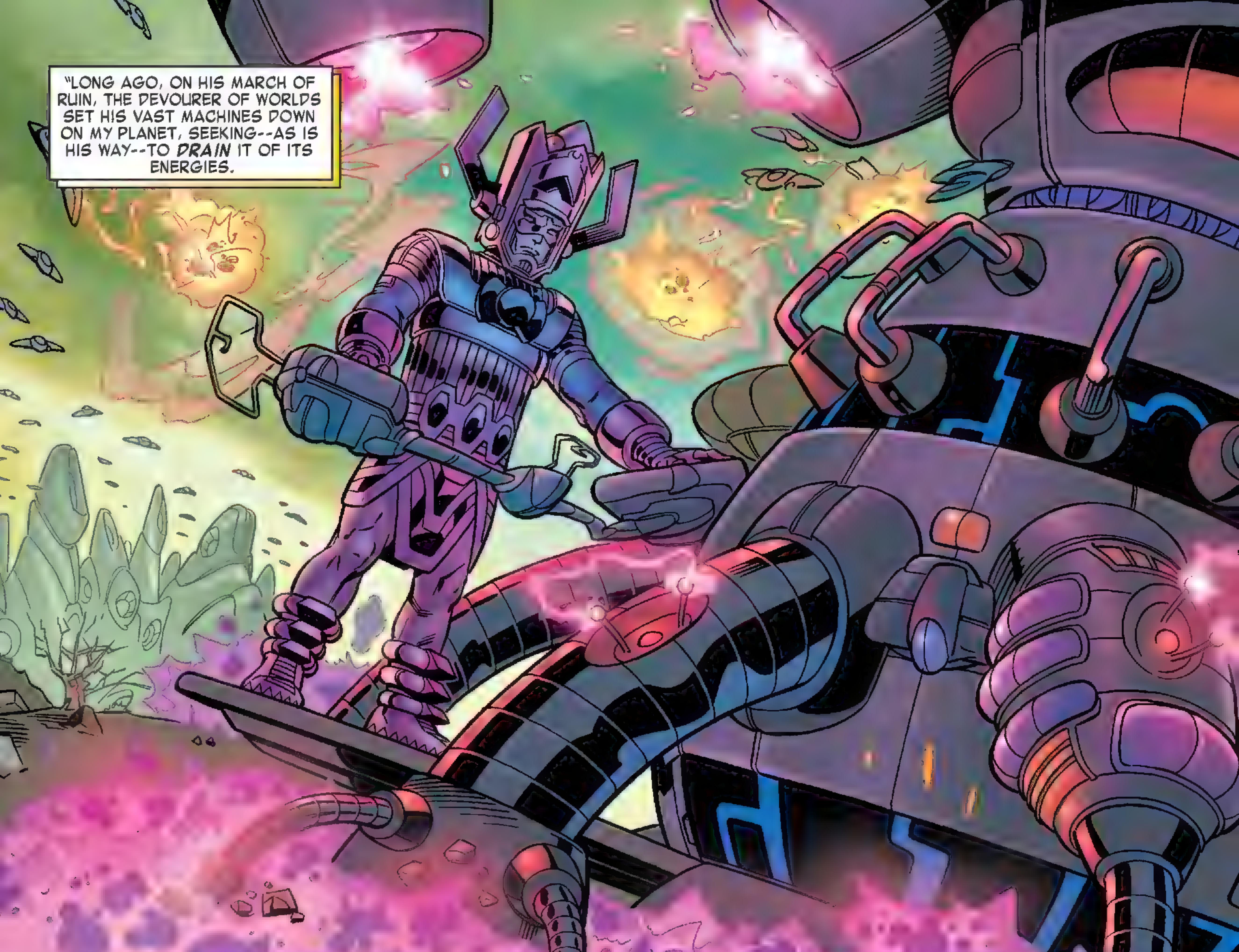




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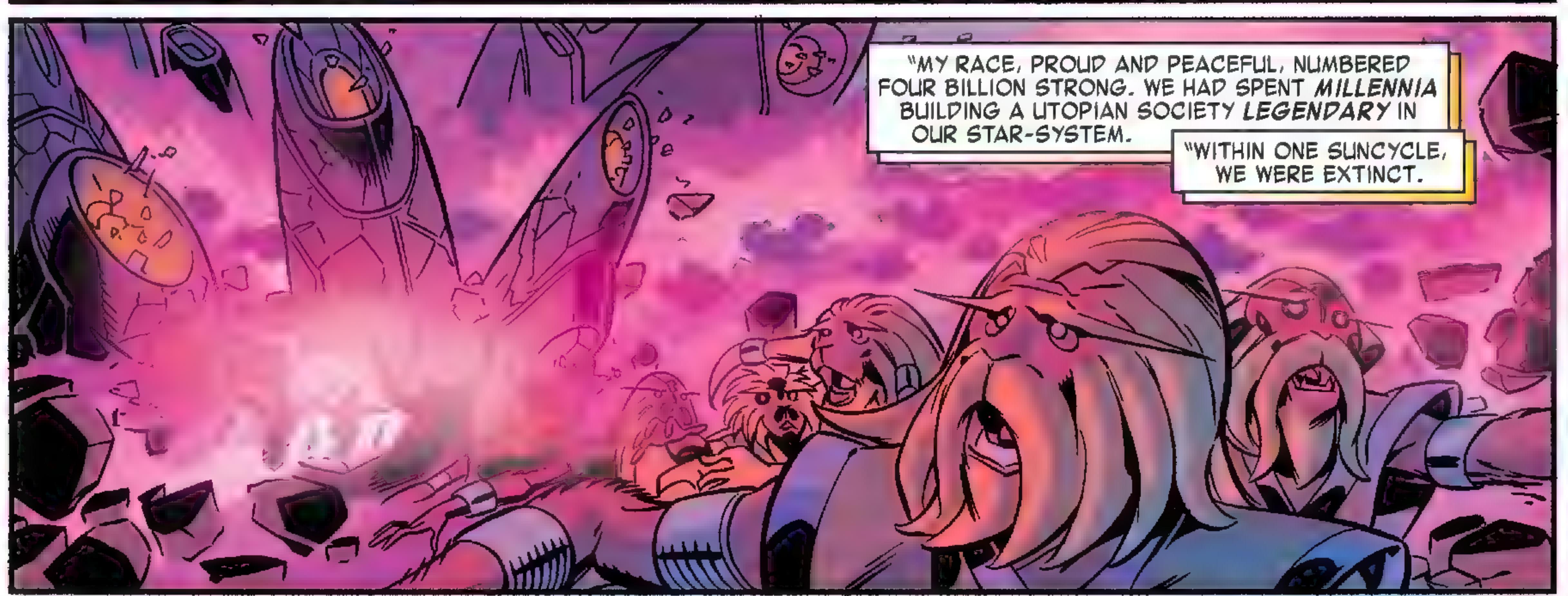


"LONG AGO, ON HIS MARCH OF RUIN, THE DEVOLIRER OF WORLDS SET HIS VAST MACHINES DOWN ON MY PLANET, SEEKING--AS IS HIS WAY--TO DRAIN IT OF ITS ENERGIES.



"MY RACE, PROUD AND PEACEFUL, NUMBERED FOUR BILLION STRONG. WE HAD SPENT MILLENNIA BUILDING A UTOPIAN SOCIETY LEGENDARY IN OUR STAR-SYSTEM.

"WITHIN ONE SUNCYCLE, WE WERE EXTINCT.

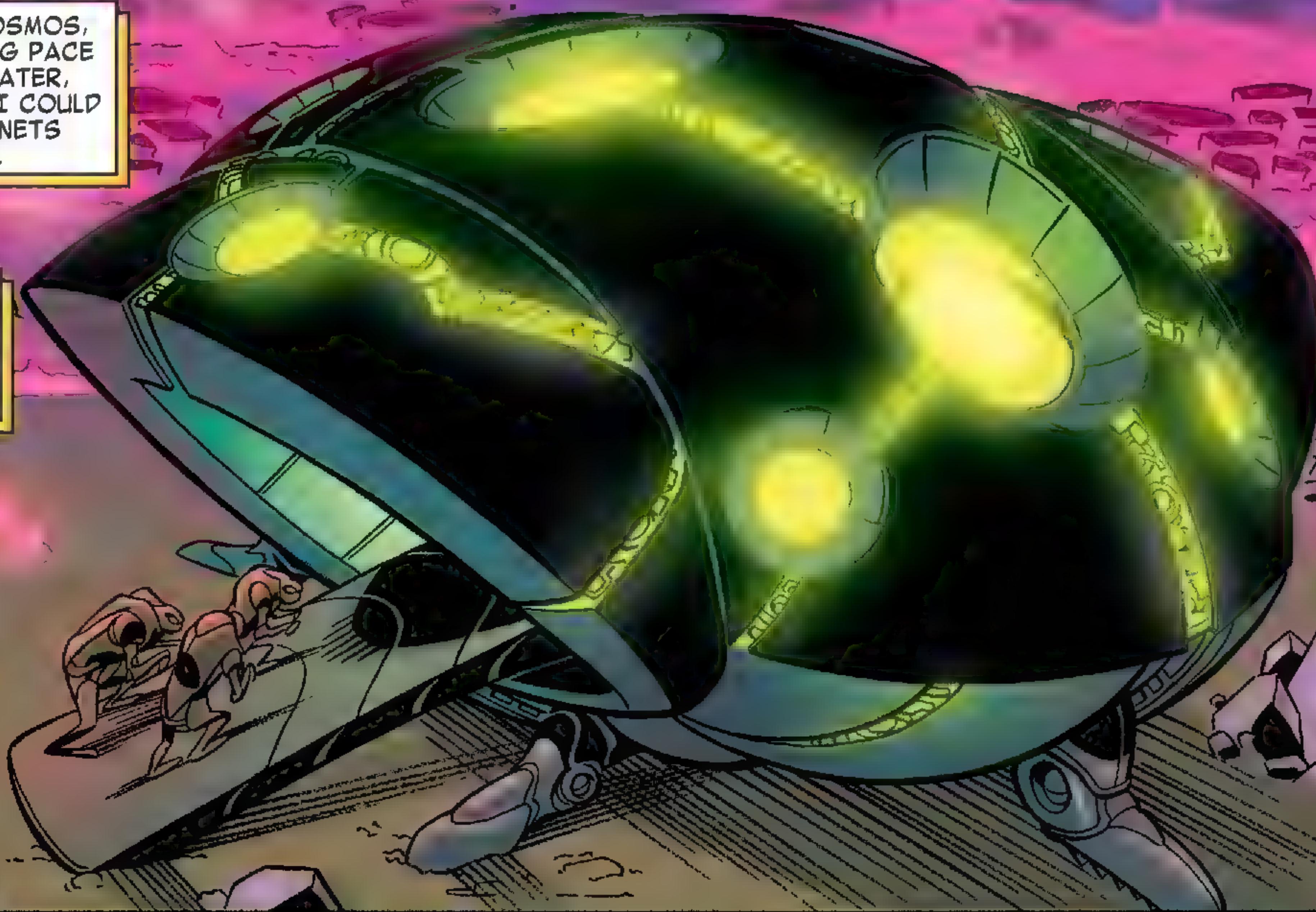


"I AND I ALONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. DRIVEN BY THE MEMORIES OF THOSE I LOST, I SWEARED TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO THWARTING GALACTUS'S SYSTEMATIC RAMPAGE OF GENOCIDE."



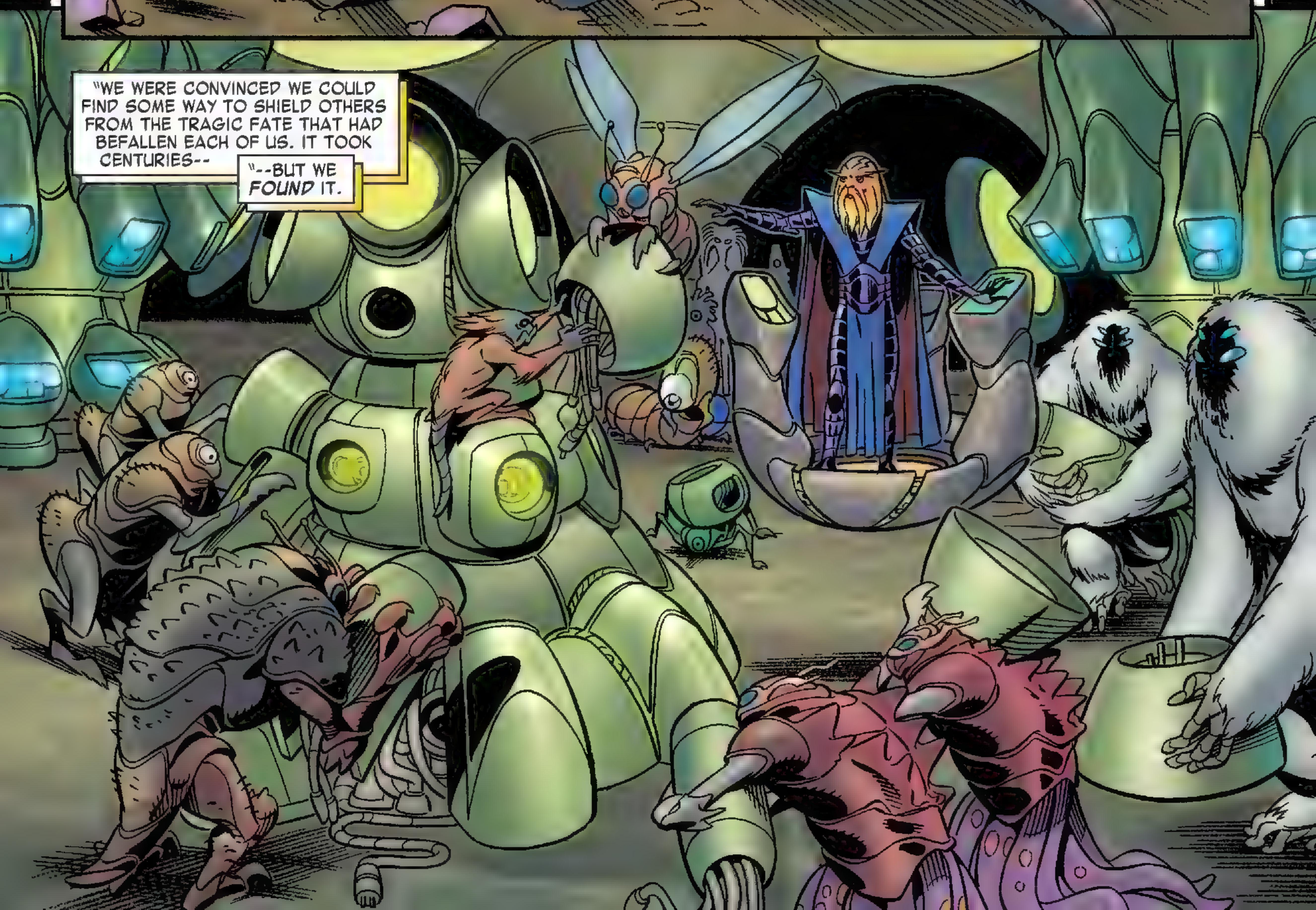
"I TRAVELED THE COSMOS, DESPERATELY KEEPING PACE WITH THE WORLD-EATER, SAVING THOSE FEW I COULD FROM THOSE PLANETS HE RAVAGED."

"ALL THE WHILE, AS OUR NUMBERS GREW, SO DID OUR SPACECRAFT--AND OUR AMBITION."

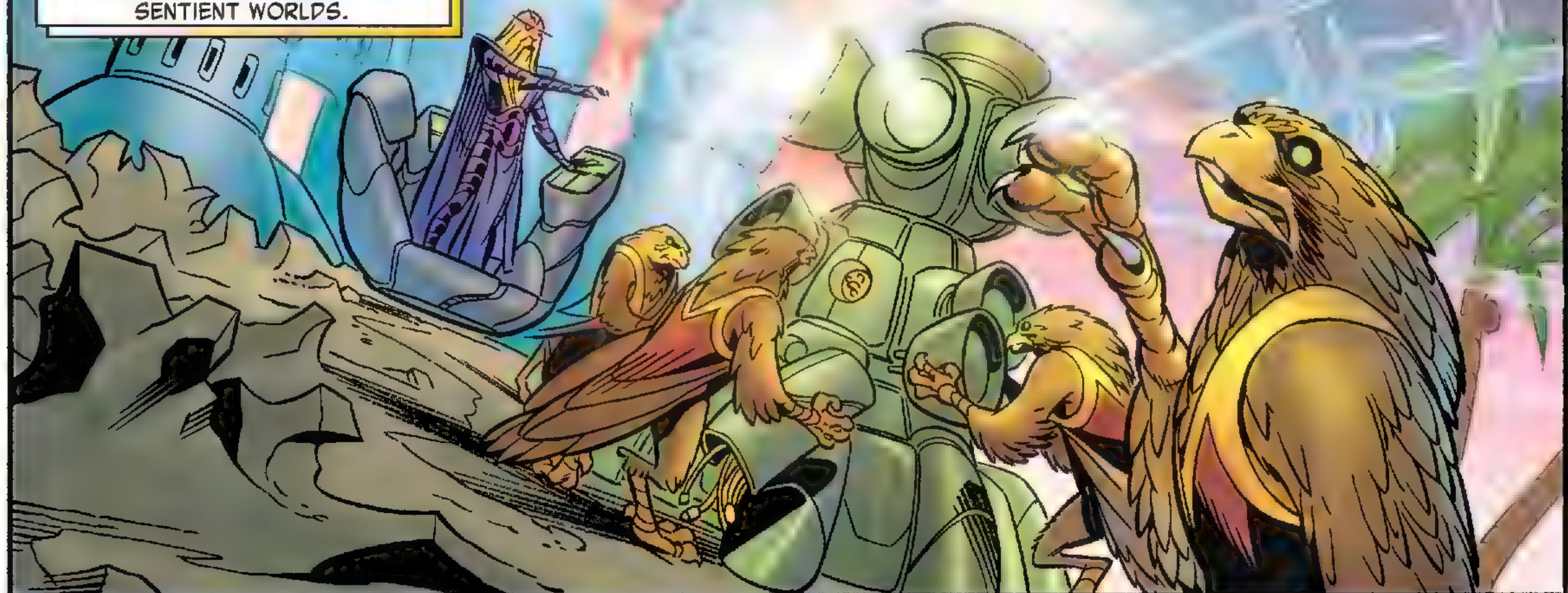


"WE WERE CONVINCED WE COULD FIND SOME WAY TO SHIELD OTHERS FROM THE TRAGIC FATE THAT HAD BEFALLEN EACH OF US. IT TOOK CENTURIES--

"--BUT WE FOUND IT."



"IT IS THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE AGAINST THE GREAT DEVOURER-- A MACHINE WHICH CAN BE MANUFACTURED SIMPLY, FROM BASE ELEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE ON ALMOST ALL SENTIENT WORLDS.

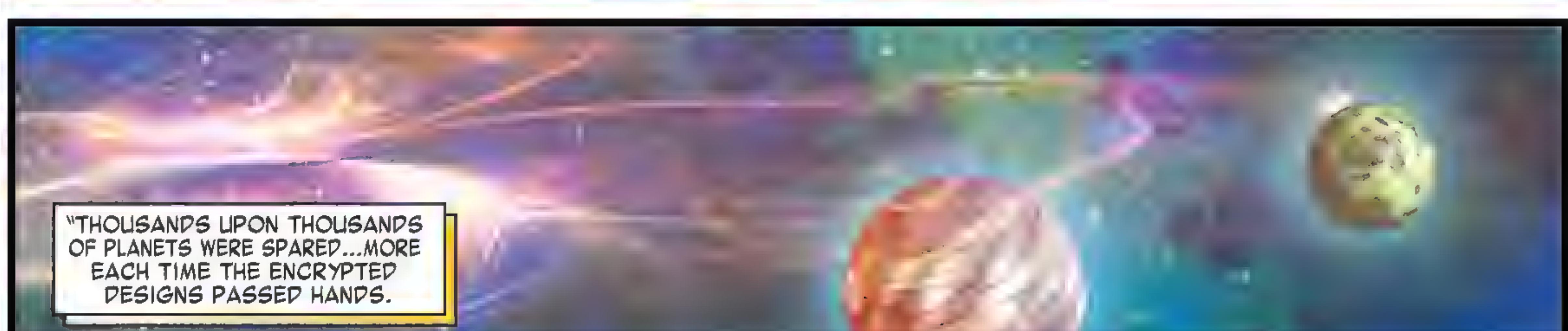


"WHEN ACTIVATED, IT GENERATES A TOTAL AND COMPREHENSIVE INVISIBILITY FIELD. A PLANET UNDER ITS PROTECTION TEMPORARILY FADES FROM VIEW--



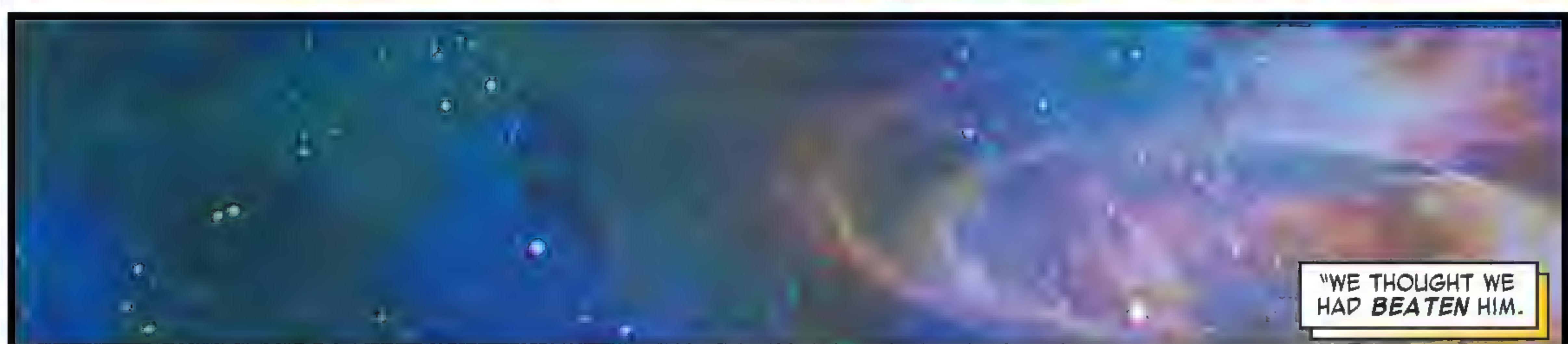
--ELUDING NOT ONLY THE EYES, BUT EVEN THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SENSORS OF GALACTUS.

"WORD OF OUR DISCOVERY SPREAD, AND SO DID ITS DESIGN--A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WE ENCOURAGED. OUR CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY WAS FREELY SHARED WITH ANYONE WHO WISHED TO ELUDE GALACTUS.



"THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PLANETS WERE SPARED...MORE EACH TIME THE ENCRYPTED DESIGNS PASSED HANDS.

"WE THOUGHT WE HAD BEATEN HIM.



"RECENTLY, HOWEVER, WE RECEIVED A CHILLING BIT OF INTELLIGENCE FROM THE SHI'AR, CONFIRMED BY THE SKRULLS:

"OUR TECHNOLOGY WASN'T, AS WE HAD BELIEVED, FOOLPROOF.

"ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, THERE WAS SOMETHING ON THE THIRD PLANET IN THE SOL SYSTEM UNIQUELY CAPABLE OF NEGATING OUR CLOAKING FREEWARE.

"WORSE...GALACTUS REALIZES THIS.

"THERE WAS, NATURALLY, ONLY ONE OPTIMAL SOLUTION TO THIS VARIABLE. ONLY ONE WAY TO ENSURE THE FUTURE SAFETY OF THE TRILLIONS OF SENTIENT CIVILIZATIONS DEPENDENT UPON OUR INVENTION.

"ELIMINATE THIS RESOURCE BEFORE GALACTUS CLAIMS IT FOR HIS OWN."

AS WE APPROACHED, OUR MONITORS PINPOINTED THAT WHAT WE WERE SEARCHING FOR WAS LOCATED ON THIS ANTHILL OF AN ISLAND YOU CALL "MANHATTAN."

HAVING NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE ABILITY TO SIFT THROUGH IT TO NARROW THE SEARCH, WE INSTEAD DECIDED THAT THE SIMPLEST AND MOST EXPEDIENT SOLUTION--

--WAS TO EJECT THE ANTHILL INTO YOUR SUN, ALLOWING ITS NUCLEAR FIRES TO OBLITERATE EVERYTHING UPON IT--

--AN OPTION STILL VERY MUCH, AS YOU SAY, "ON THE TABLE."

OVER
MY DEAD
BODY!

NOT
NECESSARILY.

MEANING?

MEANING THAT THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE--ONE, IRONICALLY, THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME HAD YOU FOUR NOT INTERFERED.

WE NOW KNOW PRECISELY WHAT GALACTUS REQUIRES TO NEGATE OUR INVISIBILITY...OR, RATHER...

...WHO.

